

[Mr. A. R. Knapp]

[6th February 1923]

to villages, others seem to ask for permanent standing advisory committees, one for each district to deal not only with the question of proximity of reserves to cultivable areas but with the whole of the forest policy of the district. That, Sir, I think, illustrates the differences of opinion. It is not at all surprising for there is not likely to be any unanimity of opinion because the conditions of different districts are different. It is on that ground that I oppose any such idea as the universal establishment of these committees all over the presidency.

"Now, Sir, you yourself and the hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar brought to notice that in many cases complaints were left unnoticed. At the same time it was admitted that the representations made have led to disafforestation in many cases. That at least is a matter for satisfaction. All I can say is that in regard to the two specific complaints which were brought to my notice I shall lose no time in having the cases further looked into. My general belief is that the forest officer is perfectly ready to inquire into grievances that are brought to his notice, but to expect that every grievance that is brought to his notice will be redressed in the manner in which the petitioner expects it to be redressed would be Utopian.

"I do not think I need say anything more. I am rather glad that the amendment has been withdrawn. I should have accepted it with some hesitation, for I quite realized that there might be a danger of misunderstanding the exact basis on which the amendment would be accepted, and, for that reason, I preferred to have a plain issue laid before this House—a plain issue as to whether we are or are not to set up a universal system of committees in every district of the Presidency to investigate the questions of the proximity of forest reserves to villages."

The resolution was put and carried.

3-30 p.m.

The following resolutions were not moved and were therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

*Introduction of avarai plants into poramboke lands.*

Mr. R. APPASWAMI NAYUDU:—

49. *That this Council recommends to the Government that the rearing of the avarai plant should be introduced into the poramboke and waste lands of villages so as to be useful to the ryots for the purpose of cultivation.*

#### AMENDMENT

Notice has been received of the following amendment:—

*Resolution No. 49.*

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—

*For the words 'introduced into' in line 2 substitute the words 'encouraged wherever practicable in'.*

*Committee to inquire into the causes of the Mappilla rebellion.*

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—

50. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to inquire into and report on the cause of the Mappilla rebellion in Malabar, and to inquire into the way in which martial law was administered in the rebel area and to further make recommendations as to the steps to be taken to stop the occurrence of such outbreaks.*